cer had already been placed under suspension and another officer dismissed from bank's service in connection with other cases.

South African Markets

3855. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI:
DR. V.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to tap markets of South Africa; and

(b) the estimated potential of these markets for Indian goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Since commercial sanctions have not so far been lifted, no concrete steps to tap the South African market can be taken.

(b It is estimated that traditional Indian goods worth US $ 20 million are exported annually to South Africa from Mauritius, Hong Kong and Singapore. An unspecified value of goods find their way through Europe. On establishment of direct Indian trade links with South Africa this quantum of market could be taken over by Indian exporters.

Besides, the presence of a sizewable ethnic population and the sheer size of the South African market – US$ 18 billion at the moment, are factors which point to an optimistic view of the Indian share in the South African market, if and when trade sanctions are lifted.

Rupee–Rouble Exchange Rate

3856. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry is seriously hit by the Rupee–Rouble exchange e rate countroversy with the erstwhile Soviet Union;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the industry as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the matter at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The impact of he upee–Rouble Exchange rate is more on India's outstanding debt to the former USSR and not specifically on the textile industry as such.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two rounds of inter–Governmental negotiations were held with the former USSR for seeking a revision of the Rupee–Rouble Exchange rate which is base on the November, 1978 Protocol. The negotiations have been inconclusive so far.

Road Accidents

3857. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:
SHRI VIRENDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of road accidents in the country during the last three years, Statewise;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured during the same period; and